

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 November 2005 (10.11.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/104812 A2

(51) International Patent Classification: Not classified

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/003683

(22) International Filing Date: 4 February 2005 (04.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/773,490 6 February 2004 (06.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,
ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: MOLDABLE COMPOSITE ARTICLE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to moldable composite articles, and particularly to a molded nonwoven fibrous article, and specifically to an automobile headliner that has improved physical properties at low weight. There is a need to minimize the weight of the headliner and the critical parameter is minimum sag. For a molded non-needlepunched batt in the weight range of 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter (gsm), the sag at 91°C must be less than 10 mm, when cantilevering a distance of 28cm. The stiffness, strength and toughness of the batt should be greater than 2 N/mm, 17N and 70% respectively. In the first embodiment, the thermoplastic binder is a bicomponent fiber with an adhesion promoted polyolefin sheath and a polyester core. In the second embodiment, the matrix fiber is a synthetic fiber with a modulus greater than 10 cN/tex. In the third embodiment the matrix fiber is a natural fiber. In the fourth embodiment the bicomponent fiber contains a filler such as carbon black or titanium dioxide.

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